

Dear Howard,

7/1/83

Besides litigating (your 6/22) I'm spending mornings walking at a local mall and nights taking in the Orioles' games. And enjoying them. Mostly.

The litigating does take time and for whatever it may ever be worth, I'm making a unique record of official mendacity in the records of the court and without refutation, which is impossible.

I'd forgotten that enlisted men used to elect their officers. As I try to think of mine I can remember only one I'd have voted for: the ROTC commander when I was a conscientious objector and fought (successfully) the requirements that all male students take it for two years. None of mine in WWII was worth a damn.

This ROTC one, though, regular army full colonel, was a fine person, an authentic intellect, and we had long and never unfriendly chats all the time I was fighting him and after I beat him. (Yeah, I know the kids of the 60s believed they invented it.)

What I'm not doing I'm thinking about. Although it is financially unwise, I'm thinking of reprinting my first book, which is basic and is used in colleges. It is still in print but almost out of print. And although I've not thought much about it lately because of the time taken in the litigating, until that got active again I was planning my coming book on the King assassination - all new stuff. And significant.

The FBI/DJ give the appearance of backing off on charging me with contempt. In their and the court's terms, I'm still in contempt. And will be. They are ip to something very wrong and as crooked and I'm in the position of declared open opposition and daring them to try it. They've opted for another option, which does not rule out contempt, and I'm fighting it. But I'll still be in contempt on the assessing of their costs, which I've not paid and told them I won't. They were crazy and got an order for that, too, so they have to back down because they do not really dare litigate at higher level on any form of contempt.

If the public interest groups were interested in FOIA except in their narrow frames they'd be able to use what I've done in defense of the Act. But as they did in the past, they'll see out the political files, which are those most important. I gather from Lardner's story that ACEU has already re CIA's. The deal they've accepted will exempt all illegal domestic CIA activity from the provisions of FOIA. Or anything else, with a little file shifting.

They all did the same thing in 1974 and even then were doublecrossed. Teddy Kennedy and Hart persevered, based on one of my cases, and prevailed over Ford's veto. Teddy saw to it that the legislative history is specific on that provision.

The possibility of contempt is still open but I do not expect those crazies to be that crazy. As much as I can, however, I'm forcing the issue. Any attention to their mendacity and abuses of the Act, as I have them documented, would hurt their campaign to get "relief" from it, meaning weaken it.

Thanks and best wishes,

THE FUND FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM, INC.
1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 462-1844

June 22, 1983

Dear Harold:

I apologize for not replying sooner.

I am not surprised by you, as an enlisted man, had an Army officer under your command -- probably a throwback to a century ago when soldiers elected their officers.

I hope that you are well and doing other things besides litigating.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harold", is written below the text "Best,".